



THE WATER INSTITUTE
OF THE GULF

WATER RESOURCES AT THE WATER INSTITUTE

**WATER RESOURCES COMMISSION
4TH REGULAR MEETING**

July 30, 2014

Chip Groat, Ph.D.
President & CEO

BACKGROUND

- ◆ Began operations in February 2012
- ◆ Located in Baton Rouge, Louisiana
- ◆ Not-for-profit, **independent** research institute
- ◆ Focused on **practical application** - *not research for research's sake*
- ◆ Founding Partners:
 - State of Louisiana – Governor Jindal, Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority, Louisiana Economic Development
 - Baton Rouge Area Foundation
 - Senator Mary Landrieu



OUR MISSION

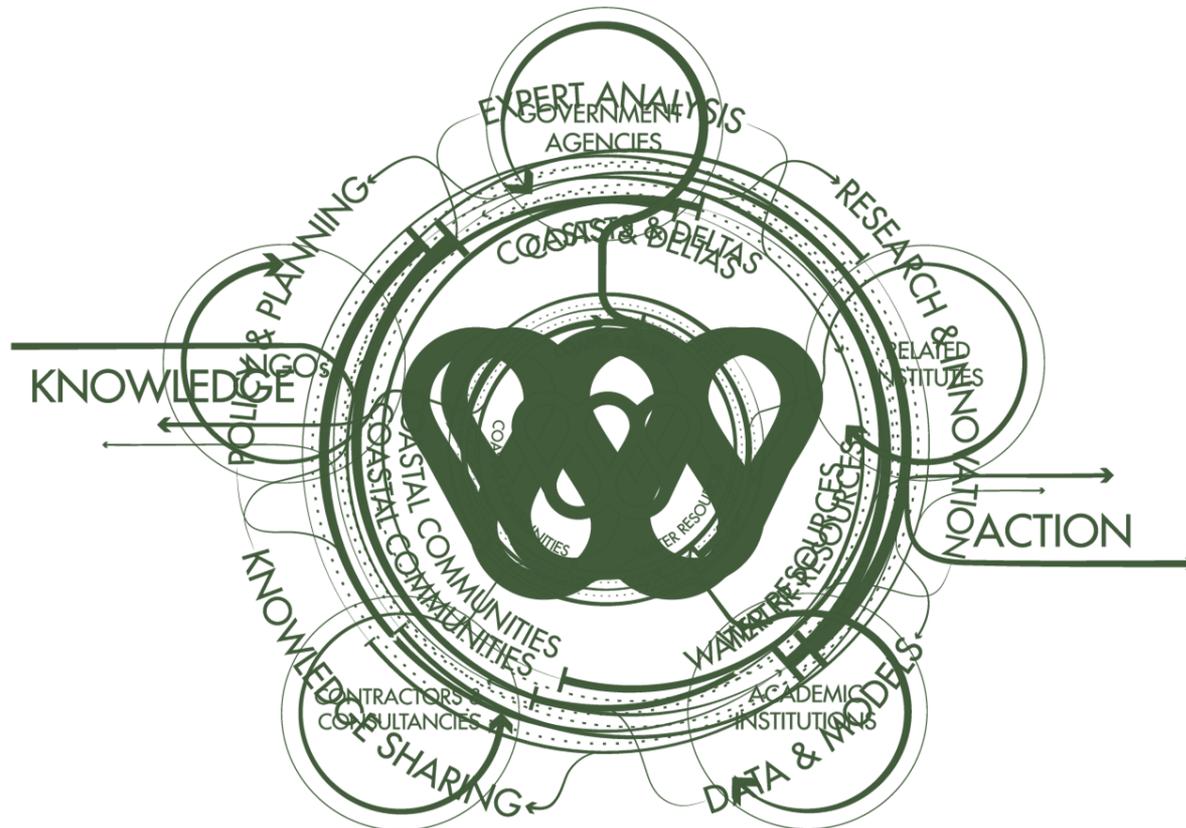
- ◆ The Water Institute of the Gulf is a **not-for-profit, independent research institute** dedicated to advancing the understanding of coastal, deltaic, river and water resource systems, both within the **Gulf Coast and around the world.**
- ◆ Our mission supports the **practical application** of innovative science and engineering, providing solutions that **benefit society.**



**WATER ISN'T OUR MIDDLE NAME,
IT IS OUR FIRST NAME**



INTEGRATING APPLIED RESEARCH. LINKING KNOWLEDGE TO ACTION. BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS.



WATER LAW AND POLICY

- ◆ Employed Kai Midboe to develop this area as Director of Policy Research
- ◆ Recognition of dimensions beyond the technical
- ◆ Consortium on Water Law and Policy
 - Not build internal staff in this area
 - Facilitate interaction among talent present in public sector
 - Louisiana first : Tulane, LSU, Sea Grant
 - Expand beyond Louisiana, Gulf of Mexico, U.S.
 - Water Institute provide operational support



STATE OF LOUISIANA'S WATER RESOURCES

- ◆ Identify information needed for effective management of surface water and groundwater basins needing increased attention based on water availability and/or use issues
 - Assumes good management depends on a firm technical base
 - Identify basins needing appraisal
 - Inventory current data availability – suggest measures to fill gaps
 - Gaps would be filled by organizations currently doing the work - with additional resources



LOUISIANA'S WATER RESOURCES AS AN ASSET

- ◆ Water resources in the news features drought



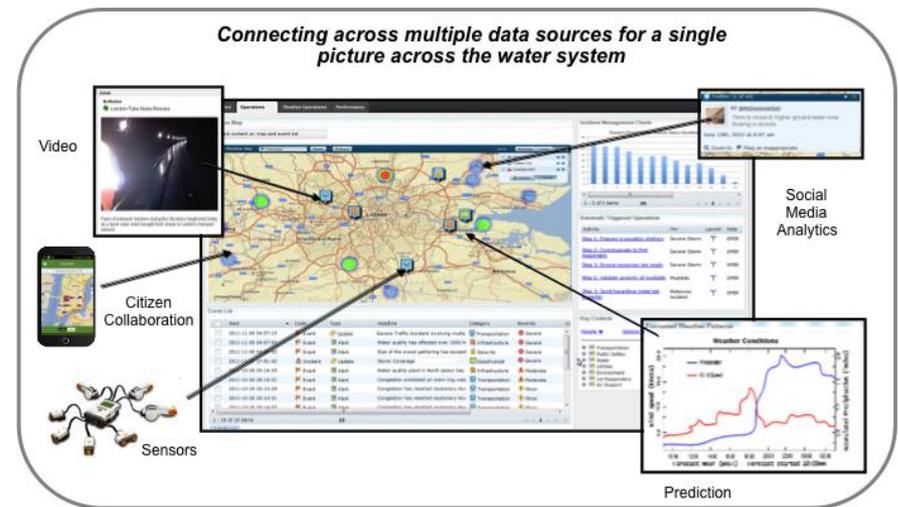
- ◆ Louisiana is blessed with an abundance of water:
Is this part of our marketing strategy?

- An advantage in economic development and in living and playing in our state
- Working with the Environment and Health Council of Louisiana to feature the importance of water resources in working, living, and playing in the capitol region



DECISION SUPPORT TOOLS

- ◆ A solid technical base for resource management loses value if it is not effectively communicated to decision makers
 - Modeling and monitoring information requires translation into user-friendly tools
- ◆ Working with IBM Smarter Water group to develop and fund these
 - Initial focus is on water-related issues in the coastal area





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